

FACT SHEET



**St. Francois County Mining Area
St. Francois County, Missouri**

September 2000

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will be holding a Public Availability Session for the St. Francois County Mining Area in St. Francois County, Missouri, on Wednesday, September 20, 2000. The purpose of the session is to discuss the interim activities planned at the site.

PLANNED ACTIONS

The main objectives of the interim action are to:

- Assist in characterizing the nature of residential yard contamination which would lead to better long-term project decisions.
- Provide educational material directly to parents and landowners and directly encourage parents of young children to have their children's blood lead level tested.
- Remove soils greater than 2,000 parts per million (ppm) lead contamination in residential settings and soils greater than 400 ppm at homes having a child or children with a blood lead concentration greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter.

Public Availability Session

EPA invites you to an informal meeting:

**Wednesday, September 20, 2000
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
The Doe Run Company Offices
202 N. Lincoln
Desloge, Missouri**

Staff members involved at the site will be available to discuss site activities and answer your questions, one-on-one. You can attend the meeting at your convenience between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Representatives from The Doe Run Company will be contacting residents to obtain sampling permission. Residential locations will be selected for sampling based on their proximity to abandoned mine waste areas.

Upon obtaining permission to sample, four general yard samples and one sample from around the foundation will be collected. In addition, samples will be taken at other potential "hot spots" (soil concentration greater than 2,000 ppm), such as gardens, chat driveways, play areas, etc. The four

samples will be taken using a small spoon to collect soil from the upper one inch of yard soil.

No soil testing will be done without the written permission of the property owner. Property owners will not incur any fees associated with the sampling.

BACKGROUND

The St. Francois County Mining Area is located in a region known as the Old Lead Belt. The area consists of six major tailings sites referred to as the Desloge Tailings, the Bonne Terre Tailings, the National Tailings, the Federal Tailings (St. Joe Park), the Elvins Tailings (Rivermines), and the Leadwood Tailings. The Doe Run Company remains the owner of the majority of the tailings. Numerous residences are located adjacent to and near the tailings.

The EPA has determined that the lead concentrations contained in the mine tailings pose a threat to the nearby population. EPA plans to conduct non-time critical removal actions at the tailings piles in order to reduce the threat of exposure to lead. There is a potential for the lead-contaminated particles to be transferred offsite by wind and storm-water runoff.

The EPA is currently overseeing a study conducted by The Doe Run Company that will lead to a decision on final actions to be taken in the County pertaining to the mine tailings. The Interim Program is intended to address lead-contaminated yard soils until the study is complete and a final remedy is selected. The Doe Run Company has entered into an agreement with EPA to conduct the Interim Action.

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

EPA is encouraging St. Francois County residents to have their children's blood-lead levels sampled. Residents are welcome to contact the St. Francois County Health Department at 573-431-1947 for more information.

EPA, the Missouri Department of Health (MDOH), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), recommend limiting exposure of young children to lead contaminated soil. This can be accomplished in the following ways:

- Children should not eat, drink or play in areas of known contamination.
- Wash children's hands after playing outside and before meals.
- Wash toys periodically and encourage children not to put toys in their mouths.
- Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces often. Use a mop or sponge with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The administrative record and site-related documents for the St. Francois County Mining Area are available for review at Mineral Area College, Park Hills, Missouri, during normal business hours, or at the EPA Region 7 Docket Room, 901 N. 5th Street., Kansas City, Kansas.

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or need additional information please contact:

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913-551-7003 or toll-free at 1-800-223-0425